

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13831 181835 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 GAC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

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E. O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH SPACE POLICY PRONOUNCEMENT

REF: PARIS 12701

1. QUESTIONED ON MAY 17 IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING FRENCH SPACE POLICY, SCIENCE MINISTER JEAN CHARBONNEL' S RESPONSES INCLUDED

THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS:

2. CHARBONNEL SAID FRANCE IS READY TO JOIN ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS IN POST- APOLLO PROGRAM PROVIDED L3 S LAUNCHER PROGRAM IS ADOPTED. HE ATTRIBUTED THE FAILURES OF EUROPA 2 PROJECT TO INADEQUACIES IN ITS DIRECTION BY AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH OFTEN PURSUED CONTRIDICTORY OBJECTIVES.

3. CHARBONNEL SAID FRANCE COULD ACCEPT THE FORMATION OF A SINGLE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY ONLY IF IT TRULY REPRESENTS THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. COMBINING THE EXISTING EUROPEAN SPACE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD SIMPLY CREATE A NEW MANAGEMENT MECHANISM, HE CONTINUED, WHICH WOULD BE DESIRABLE ONLY IF ALL THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE PROGRAMS ADOPTED.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 13831 181835 Z

4. CHARBONNEL SAID FRENCH SPACE POLICY IS BASED ON AN ANALYSIS OF FORESEEABLE SPACE APPLICATIONS, THAT THESE ARE INHERENTLY INTERNATIONAL IN CHARACTER. HE SAID THAT UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO LAUNCHERS IS A FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT FOR EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE IN SPACE MATTERS.

5. DESCRIBING ESSENTIAL, SHORT- TERM ACTIONS, CHARBONNEL CITED ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAUNCH OF THE FRANCO- GERMAN SYMPHONIE SATELLITE, A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE GUIANA LAUNCH BASE AND PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE EARLY IN JULY.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHARBONNEL' S REMARKS ARE NOT AT VARIANCE WITH THE PRESS INTERVIEW REPORTED REFTEL, HIS TONE IN THIS POLITICAL ASSEMBLAGE WAS HARsher AND THE INDEPENDENT LAUNCHER THEME IS AGAIN PRESENT.

IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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